



Interview transcripts—NPS Response

Tom Rodhouse 009

The National Park Service finds itself right in the center of the response to white nose syndrome, working very closely with the coordinating agency, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, as well as other agencies like the U.S. Geological Survey, state agencies and a number of other organizations to really form these comprehensive interdisciplinary teams and it's quite...quite a tremendous opportunity to learn more about bats and moreover to really increase our network of scientists, of communication specialists and others for this issue and for other issues more broadly. That this has given us an opportunity to establish better interaction with our colleagues around the country, around the world and that's a good thing.

Tom Rodhouse 011

White nose presents a tremendous challenge to the agency, to the National Park Service in particular because it, because bats are so common even though we don't see them often at night. They actually are very widespread. They show up in buildings and in bridges; they are in natural structures like caves; they're in mines, old mines which are scattered throughout our country, particularly in the Western United States, many of our big parks have many, many caves and mines that in many cases we don't actually know where they are.

And so this requires sort of an all-in, all-hands-on-deck approach. The Park Service has cultural resource specialists and natural resource specialists working very much closely together now to try and address the disease, address the response. How should we handle or limit human entrance into some of these structures to try and prevent or slow down the spread of the disease. And so this is a very formidable challenge, but again it's one that seems to be providing some benefit in the sense that the agency is learning more about how to really truly integrate across all its different divisions and organizations.

Shawn Thomas 004

In response to white nose syndrome, at Lava Beds we've developed a response program and a response plan...like all the Park Service, primarily we're focusing on educating visitors. Our response plan includes screening all visitors that come to the park. We determine if they've accessed

caves in the past, where did they go into caves and what we're really trying to get at there is if there is any potential that they could actually transport the *Geomyces Destructans* fungus to our park. So what we are really trying to avoid is the possibility of a human causing a new epicenter of a white nose syndrome in the West. So we are just trying to minimize the risk of any, of any visitor to our park introducing the spores, the fungal spores that cause white nose syndrome.

Vickie Carson o6 A

The very mission of the park service is to preserve and protect and then provide for enjoyment. so we are supposed to take care of the resources that are here in the park, but also help people understand them and appreciate them, and learn about them.

Vickie Carson o6 B

And the science keys into this very thing, that for us to take care of what's here, we need to know what's here and we need to know more about it and then to help people understand it; we need to know about the resource.